

Target: CIA

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Disinformation— And How It Works

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WASHINGTON — A leftist journalist in an Asian nation recently submitted a column to his editors. It was a denunciation of the American Central Intelligence Agency.

The column was printed. A week later it was quoted in Tass—the official Soviet news agency. The Tass report was quoted by some American newspapers.

What the editors did not know was that the column submitted by the Asian writer was actually prepared in Moscow and sent to the Asian nation in an elaborate scheme to add another bit of "evidence" to the steadily growing campaign against CIA.

This case is only one of hundreds. Since 1959 when former Premier Nikita Khrushchev established "Disinformatsiya" (The Department of Disinformation) as an integral part of the KGB secret police, more than 500 attacks on the CIA have been traced directly to the Moscow group.

In 1961 Richard Helms of the CIA gave the Senate Internal Security subcommittee 32 examples of forgery by the Communist agency. At least 14 new cases were reported by last July.

"The objective is the destruction, break-up and neutralization of the CIA," the report says. "A basic requirement of Soviet policy and a major objective is the destruction of intelligence collaboration among non-Communist nations."

This is called a prerequisite to the long-term Soviet aim of "subversion, political upheaval, popular fronts and the eventual political isolation of the United States."

The task has been entrusted to a veteran Soviet spy named Gen. Ivan Ivanovich Agayants. He has a staff of 40 or 50 specialists in Moscow alone. They have the power to preempt any part of the global KGB apparatus. They report directly to the Soviet presidium.

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The disinformation agency is believed to have three major goals:

1. The destruction of the confidence of the Congress and the American public in agencies committed to cold war anti-Communist programs.

2. The undermining of U.S. prestige in the countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and other non-Communist nations aimed at the break-up of NATO.

3. The sowing of distrust for the United States in the countries of Latin America and the underdeveloped areas, particularly Africa.

To achieve these goals, the Soviet agency has adopted flexible policies designed to take advantage of changing world conditions. The latest themes are reported to be:

1. CIA is racist and a threat to independence movements.

2. CIA engages in espionage, sabotage, terrorism and counter-revolutionary activities.

3. CIA is an instrument for American aggression and uses diplomats, scientists and tourists to gather information.

4. CIA dominates American foreign policy.

5. CIA lies to undermine the influence of the Soviet Union.

6. CIA is designed to fight Communist parties in every nation.

Agayants has centered particular attention on the directors of the CIA, first Allen Dulles, then John McCone, and now Adm. William Raborn.

In 1961 a booklet on Dulles titled "Study of a Master Spy" was published in London. The author, ostensibly, was a controversial laborite member of parliament named Bob Edward. The CIA has disclosed that the book was actually written in Moscow by a disinformation colonel named Vasily Sitnikov.

The technique of planting information and stories in non-Communist countries, making it as fact is becoming a

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popular Soviet device. One recent Russian pamphlet on the CIA is based entirely on material from western sources and includes "background" inserts from reputable American publications to add authenticity.

How important is the CIA? The very nature of its activities hides the answer from the American people. Some critics in Washington complain there is too much secrecy. Some complain that the daily reports from the huge complex in near-by McLean, Va., to the President should be made public so the nation can assay the Communist threat.

Defenders point out that the CIA is quickly blamed for foreign policy blunders, but is never credited with success.

Perhaps that success is best measured by the Russians. The disinformation section of the KGB refers to the United States as "glavani vrag" — the main enemy. And it uses the same term to describe the CIA.